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AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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**BY**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (24 Apr 67) FOR OT

1 May 1967

SUBJECT: ~~Operational Report~~ - Lessons Learned, Headquarters,  
3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (U)

(12) 12p.

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

*Operational rept. for quarterly period ending 31 Jan 67.*

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 3D Battalion, 6th Artillery for period ending 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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(Continued on page 2)

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1. ANAL. AND/OR SERIAL



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 3D BATTALION 6TH ARTILLERY  
APO 96318

AVFA-AT-3/6-CO

1 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 (U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

## SECTION I (U) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

### 1. (U) General:

a. On 9 January, the unit colors were presented to the new battalion commander in a change of command ceremony conducted at base camp.

b. Awards: Soldiers' medals were awarded to a forward observer and his enlisted assistant. The Army Commendation Medal was awarded to the battalion S4 in a ceremony on 9 January. Air crewmans' badges were awarded to the battalion communications officer and three forward observers during the reporting period. Three battalion noncommissioned officers received awards for outstanding achievement for their service as instructors of Montagnard troops at Dak Pek special forces camp from 26 July 1966 until 3 October 1966.

c. From 3-14 November, the battalion sponsored Batteries B and C, 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery (AD), and Battery G (-), 65th Artillery (AW) which were new arrivals in the Republic of Vietnam.

2. (U) Intelligence: Several air observers were committed to aerial visual reconnaissance (VR) missions which resulted in sightings of numerous hamlets, trails, bridges, entrenchments, and suspected enemy personnel. Several of these locations have been used as harassing and interdiction targets by artillery units in the Pleiku area. On 26 January, Battery B fired a destruction mission at grids BR124512 and BR122510 under control of an aerial observer on a VR mission. The mission resulted in 6 hamlets destroyed, 2 secondary explosions, and the burning of a rice storage area.

### 3. (U) Operations and training activities.

a. Plans: Training to develop and maintain individual combat proficiency, safety, personal hygiene and sanitation, maintenance, and security was scheduled periodically. Much of this training has been emphasized through on the job training techniques. Familiarization firing of individual and crew served weapons was conducted during the reporting period.

#### b. Operations:

(1) On 6 November, selected personnel attended a briefing on the characteristics and employment of the XM546 anti personnel round (Beehive).

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1 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 (U)

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The battalion conducted a firing demonstration of this round on 7 November.

(2) On 12, 13, and 15 December, the firing batteries calibrated all 105mm howitzers. Since all tubes were replaced as of 28 January due to being in excess of 3,000 effective full charge (EFC) rounds, calibration is again required and has been requested.

(3) From 1 November until 7 December Battery A occupied a position along highway 19 east of Pleiku City with the mission to provide security of the highway.

(4) From 1 November until 7 December, Battery B occupied several positions between Oasis and Duc Co, along highway 19. During this period, Battery B was attached to 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery providing security for highway 19 and Duc Co special forces camp. Numerous defensive fires, preparations, registrations, and harassing and interdiction missions were fired during this period.

(5) From 1 November until 26 December, Battery C occupied a position along route 509 west of Pleiku City with the mission of DS TF 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry to provide security for route 509.

(6) From 6-15 December, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery was attached to 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery with the mission of DS 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, to provide security for highway 19 east of Pleiku City.

(7) On 6 December, Battery A moved two howitzers to a position along highway 19 approximately 14 miles east of Pleiku City. They were in DS of elements of 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, supporting a one day sweeping operation conducted by two ARVN companies.

(8) From 7 December until 31 January, Battery B occupied a position along highway 19 east of Pleiku City with the mission of DS TF 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, TF 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, and 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry respectively, in support of a highway security mission. The battery fired destruction missions, defensive concentrations, harassing and interdiction missions, and registrations during this period.

(9) From 2 December until 3 January, Battery A occupied several positions along highway 19 between Oasis (2A100278) and Duc Co. During this period, the battery was attached to the 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery and OPCON the 4th Battalion, 42d Artillery respectively, providing security for highway 19 west of Pleiku City. Defensive concentrations, registrations and harassing and interdiction missions were fired.

(10) On 15 December, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery was released from attachment to 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and returned to its home station.

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**3** **SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 (U)**

(11) From 15-30 December, Battery A, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery was attached to 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery in DS of 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, providing security of highway 19 east of Pleiku City. While attached, the battery fired a destruction mission which resulted in the destruction of 9 huts, damage to 6 others, a cave entrance blocked, and a cache destroyed.

(12) From 26-30 December, Battery C occupied two positions (split battery) in the vicinity of Plei Do Lim and Phu Nhon along highway 14 south of Pleiku City. Its mission was to provide artillery fires in support of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry on a search and destroy mission as part of Operation Paul Revere IV.

(13) From 30 December until 2 January, Battery C returned to base camp after being released from OCA 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

(14) From 2-31 January, Battery C occupied two positions along route 509 west of Pleiku City in DS 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, providing security of route 509. While in these positions, the battery fired harassing and interdiction missions, defensive concentrations, and registrations. On 25 January, the battery fired two preparation missions, a total of 296 rounds, in support of 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry during Operation Sam Houston.

(15) From 3-16 January, Battery A occupied a position along route 14B between route 509 and highway 19 with the mission of DS 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, to provide security of route 14B and highway 19.

(16) From 16-29 January, Battery A occupied a position at Oasis in DS of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

(17) On 29 January, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery, attached to 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, moved to a position approximately 30 miles east of Pleiku City along highway 19 in DS of 1st Battalion, 69th Armor.

(18) From 29-31 January, Battery A occupied a position along route 509 west of Pleiku City, in DS of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, providing support for security of route 509.

#### **a. Training:**

(1) Selected personnel attended classes on the M16 rifle held at 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division base camp on 8 and 9 November.

(2) On 21 November, the headquarters battery 81mm mortar section fired in support of a joint training exercise with the 77th FA Detachment (Radar).

### **SECTION II (c) COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)**

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 (U) 4

### 1. (C) Operations:

#### a. Item: Firing Chart (Scale: 1/25,000) 6400 mil.

Discussion: Tactical deployment of friendly troops from a fire base rather than by conventional methods requires that artillery fire direction centers maintain a 6400 mil capability. Standard FDC chart tables do not provide 6400 mil coverage at maximum range when the battery location is plotted in the center of the chart.

Observation: Chart tables of laminated wood or plywood should be constructed 42 X 42 inches to facilitate 6400 mil coverage. Standard firing charts can be fastened together to attain this increased size.

#### b. Item: FDC personnel.

Discussion: In order for battery fire direction centers to maintain a 24 hour operational capability, two computers are required. Under the current TOE, only one computer in grade of E5 (Specialist) is authorized as chief computer/section chief. Consequently, the fire direction officer or chart operators are required to function as computers, thus detracting from the performance of other duties.

Observation: The TOE for firing batteries should be changed to authorize a chief computer/section chief in grade E6 and an additional computer in grade E5 (Specialist).

#### c. Item: Transporting 105mm M546 (Beehive) ammunition

Discussion: If this ammunition is carried opened in the ready racks of the 105mm Howitzer (M108) SP, the constant movement of the ammunition in the racks causes undue point wear. In addition, the shifting weight of the projectile causes it to seat further into the canister, and the rotating band forces the lip of the canister to flare out.

Observation: One beehive round should be carried strapped to the loading tray for immediate use. The remaining beehive rounds should be kept in fiber containers, stored horizontally in the howitzer, and marked for identification to prevent accidental firing while preset on muzzle action.

### 2. (C) Logistics:

#### a. Item: Change of tubes for the M108 howitzer SP.

Discussion: Normal time to change a tube for the M108 howitzer is from 8 to 12 hours. This is accomplished by removing the complete howitzer mount assembly, breech assembly, and removing the tube through the rear.

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5 When firing batteries are employed in the field under combat conditions, the tube can be changed in a period of 30 minutes by removing the tube lock at the rear of the tube, unscrewing the tube and removing it from the front. The new tube is then installed from the front using the same procedure in reverse.

Observation: For batteries deployed in combat positions, tube changes should be accomplished by the most rapid means available to prevent prolonged howitzer downtime.

b. Item: Dust damage to certain types of engines in Vietnam.

Discussion: Excessive dust accumulation causes damage to turbochargers in engine, 8V71T (GIC) in the M108 howitzer, SP.

Observation: Air bags should be cleaned daily and replaced weekly in order to prevent engine damage.

3. (C) Others:

a. Item: AN/VRC-12 series radios.


Discussion: The new AN/VRC-12 series radios have a tendency to overheat during hot weather in spite of the fact that they have an automatic cooling fan. This problem is particularly true in the M113 armored personnel carrier where interior temperature causes constant overheating of radios even when radios are not being used.

Observation: Additional mounts and cabling should be provided to allow removal of the radios for static position operation and cooling. The M113 APC should also be equipped with a cooling fan in the troop compartment to circulate air around the exterior of the radios.

Part II, Recommendations

1. (U) Operations: Recommend augmentation for battery fire direction centers.

2. (U) Others: Recommend that a modification kit be provided for the M113 APC in order to properly cool radio equipment. The modification kit should include additional radio mounts and cables for removal of equipment from the vehicle. A cooling fan should also be mounted for interior compartment cooling.

  
EDWIN S. PALMER  
1st Lt, Infantry  
Commanding

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AVFA-AT-52-S3 (1 Feb 67)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 RCS(CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 52D ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96318, 4 Feb 67

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350

1. Reference: I FFORCEV Arty msg AVHGC-EH 05300, subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for Period Ending 31 January 1967, dtg 271135Z Jan 67.

2. Spelling errors have been corrected with pen and ink.

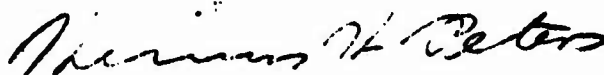
3. Information is current and appropriate.

4. Augmentation to battery fire direction centers will be requested by an MTOE.

5. Modification recommended in Part II, para 2 will be the subject of an EIR to be submitted by the 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery.

6. Daily formal training is held in all units in fire direction and firing battery procedures to ensure individual and unit proficiency and accuracy of fires.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



HENRY H. PETERS  
LTC, Arty  
Adjutant

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AVFA-AT-D (1 Feb 67) 2d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)(3d Bn, 6th Arty) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96350, 19 February 1967

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-O&T,  
APO 96350

1. (U) Concur in observations and recommendations contained in  
basic communications.

2. (U) The following additional comment is submitted: Recommend  
this procedure be evaluated by the appropriate ordnance command, and if  
found acceptable, detailed implementing instructions be furnished.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
LEO E. ELLIS  
LTC, Arty  
Adjutant

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11 AVFA-GC-OT (1 Feb 67)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967  
(U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350 13 MAR 1967

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO 96307

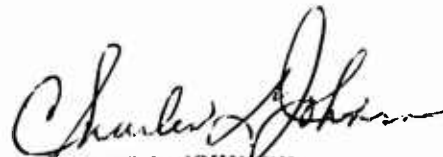
1. (U) Concur with the contents of the Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, and the preceding indorsements with the following comments.

2. (C) Reference Section II, Part II - Recommendations.

a. Reference paragraph 1: A request for MTOE change must be submitted by the organization with justification before any favorable personnel action can be taken.

b. Reference paragraph 2: All radios should have the backs removed, the vanes of the blower motor squirrel cage, and the fins of the heat exchange cleaned a minimum of once weekly. Proper preventive maintenance will contribute immeasurably to keeping the radio operating as cool as possible. The organization should submit an equipment improvement recommendation (EIR) on the problems encountered as outlined in TM 38-750, with changes, dated 15 January 1964.

FOR THE COMMANDER:.

  
CHARLES L. JOHNSON  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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AVHGC-DH (1 Feb 67)

4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
31 January 1967 (BCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307


7 MAR 1967

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT  
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 January 1967 from Headquarters, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery as indorsed.

2. Reference Paragraphs 1 and 2, Part II, Section II, Page 5: The action indicated in Paragraphs 4 and 5, 1st Indorsement is appropriate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
R. J. THOMPSON  
Lt. AGC  
The Adjutant General

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GPOP-OT(1 Feb 67)

5th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 3d Bn 6th Arty

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 8 APR 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



G. R. KOBALY  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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